



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Notable Guest Speaker to Address H.O.P.E. Collaborative

Executive Director of the "Institute for the Study & Practice of Non-Violence" to share his best practices with organization working to eradicate gang violence
Thursday, March 08, 2007 at 10:30AM at 800 Purchase Street

New Bedford, Massachusetts- At the next regular meeting of the H.O.P.E. (Healthy Opportunities for Peaceful Engagement) Collaborative, Teny Gross, Executive Director of the Providence-based "Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-violence" will make a special presentation to the team.

Mr. Gross has had phenomenal success with his programs and his work has been contributed with helping to decrease the violence in Providence. He will discuss the impact of the street outreach workers and will give his definition of non-violence.

"Mr. Gross has created a curriculum around the concept of "non-violence" and the H.O.P.E. Collaborative is looking forward to the opportunity to learn his best practices and experiences with eradicating gangs, violence and negativity," said Deirdre Lopes, Director of the H.O.P.E. Collaborative.

He is scheduled to speak to the H.O.P.E. Collaborative on Thursday, March 08, 2007 at 10:30AM in the UMass Dartmouth downtown campus conference room at 800 Purchase Street. The public is welcome to attend.

The H.O.P.E. Collaborative is a network of community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, services agencies and community members dedicated to building and sustaining safe, productive and peaceful communities. The collaboration was formed as a result of the \$1 million Charles E. Shannon Jr. Anti-Gang Grant awarded to New Bedford. The agencies are working together to implement innovative ways to reduce gang violence.

"I believe this is a pivotal point for the H.O.P.E. Collaborative street outreach teams. They have demonstrated a commitment to building relationships with our youth as well as the neighborhoods and communities they service. I expect that Mr. Gross'

presentation will inspire the team to continue the good work they are doing in New Bedford,” said Ms. Lopes.

H.O.P.E. Collaborative meetings will take place every second Thursday of the month from 9 AM – 12 Noon at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Downtown campus conference room located at 800 Purchase Street. These meetings are open to the public and will air on New Bedford Cable Access Channel 18.

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